POINT MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 21, 1972

TO: POINT Board

FROM: Richard Raymond

RE: First Anniversary Re-evaluation

Last November we each submitted our suggestions for giving POINT a direction. I made the pitch then (on my birthday) that POINT may require a few years of experimentation and some mystical interference to stumble onto a "grand design" and our next few years could be organized deliberately to capture such surprises while at the same time doing useful, but ungrand work.

I argued that we ought to define and to acknowledge our own personal values, because it's silly to pretend that we (or any foundation directors) have some magical objectivity not related to our own experience-based attitudes. Thus, it seemed reasonable also that we exploit our individuality by being an elite coalition (in a Karmic sense); supporting other individualistically-organized endeavors, always encouraging experiment-chains, i.e. experiments that trigger more experiments. To maximize the effectiveness of this process, I hoped we would encourage the exchange of information, learning not only about one another's work, but also about techniques of administration that work well or that don't satisfy us. (I also put in a pitch for light-heartedness.)

All that was a year ago. This year, as I try to re-evaluate, I feel o.k. about those initial recommendations; nevertheless, I have said some things (in my Sept. 11 report) about (1) wanting us all to be more informed about "money as a work equivalent" and about "surplus money", and (2) about being less sloppy in our Board roles, and (3) carrying through more effectively with what we have been learning and doing.

In this context, I shall report on what I've done with my share of POINT's resources and how I expect to behave hereon.

Description of Grants Made through October, 1972

1. Fred Moore ($15,000). A free agent to pursue his interests in exchanging money and information within informal communities. No formal

554

reporting required, but Fred held several group meetings in the Bay area to discuss money, and plans to initiate an information-exchanging program soon on a national scale.

2. Diana Shugart ($4,586). A free agent to pursue her interests in women's careers, San Francisco small publishers, or other as-yet-undefined issues. Balance of $15,000 grant returned; her then-undefined interests evolved later into giving TLC to one man and one home.

3. Project Jonah ($2,000). Initially a loan recommended by Jerry Mander; later converted to a grant to support staff and administrative expenses (especially Diana Shugart's salary).

4. Zen Work Company ($2,500). Funds supplied in 5 installments every two months to encourage the establishment of a remodelling, repair, and construction business for San Francisco Zen students. Early projects for the company have included painting jobs, some electrical and plumbing work, as well as several carpentry assignments. These contracts employed up to 10 Zen workers, each receiving up to $3/ hour. The Company expects to add a housecleaning referral service, and later to begin the production of products (such as tables, toilet seats, etc.).

5. Amsterdam Summer Project ($3,500). A student-organized project recommended by Larry Klein and Grant Spaeth, and undertaken at Stanford to conduct several large scale "impact"-litigation campaigns related to capital punishment and racial desegregation in public schools. I strongly urge POINT directors to read Amsterdam's complete report (submitted Sept. 8).

6. Hilton Braithwaite ($100). Assistance grant to young, black, photographic student from New York recommended by Steve Benedict of Rockefeller Bros. Fund. An additional grant was predicated on Braithwaite finding a local sponsor to administer the funds. I have not heard from him since.

7. Ron Jones ($1,000). An experiment, at my own instigation, to allow Ron to develop one or more projects which may create revenue and information for the benefit of the Zeyphros educational community (most of whom were formerly at Portola Institute).

8. Malcolm Margolin ($1,500). Young East Bay Parks program leader recommended by Huey Johnson. Grant is for completing the writing of a book on conservation training for high school age people and their instructors. Grant to be administered by Life Forum; book to be published by Word-Wheel, and supervised by Hal Hershey (ex-Whole Earth Catalog layout person).

555

9. Ron Bevirt ($1,500). A data gathering project, emerging from my concern with Gurney Norman's purchase of a sub-marginal farm in the Santa Cruz range. The grant, administered by Life Forum, is for Hassler (Ron Bevirt) to devote 3 months to investigate (a) agricultural potentialities of the property, (b) cottage industry alternatives, and (c) desirability of having other (high-income) residents or co-owners share the place.

10. San Francisco Zen Center ($5,000). A grant to allow Dick Baker-roshi to undertake a major fund raising effort for the San Francisco Zen Center. His goal: approximately $150,000.

11. Other Ear-marked Grants ($10,900). These funds have been transferred from my POINT account to Life Forum and to the Agape Foundation for the following future purposes.

Life Forum:

1. To cover various left-over expenses of the Stockholm environmental project ($1,200).

2. To organize and conduct a series of meetings for environmental advocates on land reform, fund raising, and program development ($1,500).

3. To encourage the construction of a steam-driven automobile, including organizing a challenge race with some major competitors ($2,000).

Agape:

1. To organize a limited membership auto repair cooperative in the Palo Alto area and to encourage other similar projects to be undertaken in other localities ($2,500).

2. To experiment with novel money and banking programs that benefit "Briarpatch" organizations located primarily in the Santa Cruz area ($2,200).

3. To formulate a project that encourages folk singing, street music, or other musical activities that strengthen community awareness and promote lightheartedness ($1,500).

Evaluation of Grants

The grants from my discretionary account total $48,086 so far. My evaluation of these expenditures is based upon certain positive criteria and several negative ones:

Positive:

"A" Will an experiment-chain be encouraged?

"B" Will a community be strengthened and will linkages exist?

"C" Is the individual initiative of one person (an alpha fish) being empowered?

"D" Will the project generate new funds either for itself or for others? 556

Negative:
"W" Will the participants be encouraged to "settle in" ?
"X" Is only one person benefitting, or is an "in-group" tendency being encouraged?
"Y" Will "endless" fund raising ensue?

I self-rate my projects as follows:

	Positive	Negative	Unusual Alpha-fish Competence
F. Moore	A, B, C, D		
D. Shirgart	C	X	
Jonah	C	W, X, Y,	•
Work Co.	B, D		
Amsterdam	C	Y	•
Braithwaite	C	X	
Ron Jones	A, B, C, D		•
Life F.			
Margolin	C		
Hassler	A, B, C, D	X	
Steam	C	X, Y	
Land Confer.	A, B, C, D		
Zen Center	A, B	Y	•
Agape			
Auto Repair	A, B, C, D		
Exper. Econ.	A, B, C, D		
Music	A, B, C		

My Intentions Hereon

Based on this first year of experimentation, there are two inescapable demands that I place on myself.

First... I see the importance of tending the eggs I (and we) have already laid.

Second... Working with Stewart (and Point) allows for zero margin of self-deception; and one of the painful hypocracies I have exposed is my failure to deal with my own "right livelihood".

In addition to these two demands, my plans are also influenced by my slowly emerging understanding of "surplus money", leading me to the realization that POINT directors are the custodians of payments received from a multitude of Whole Earth Catalog readers.

The consequence of all this is that I don't feel right about drawing income from POINT (unless engaged in some specific work assigment), and that I do need to concentrate my attention on drawing income elsewhere. This could result either in resigning soon from the Board or finding a different basis for allocating my time and work.

Suggestions for Mike and the New Administration

The administrative style that would appeal most to me is one in which directors act as a coalition of individualistic Godfathers, with constantly improving talents as "favor-exchanges".

557

Meetings would be virtually limited to factual reporting; e.g. what I did last week; what I learned last week; what is going on. Any philosophical discussions would be uncontested opinions; i.e. expository and never expressed with the intention of gaining agreement or conformity by other directors.

Occasionally if spontaneous circumstances arise prompting us directors to participate together on a POINT project, then we ought to do it. But I haven't felt that this aspect of our administration needs to be a policy or a specific commitment.

Finally, I like the Elijah tradition, but I would like to line up some far in advance in order to have such people occasionally as Margaret Mead, Erich Fromm, Rollo May, Sammy Davis, Jr., or Shirley Chisolm, etc.

Peace, Love, Brotherhood, Cheer, and Merry Christmas to all.

Rich R.

558